

3rd Ship Design Process Workshop



31 March - 2 April 2009



Don Reinertsen is President of Reinertsen & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in improving the product development process. Before starting his own firm, he had extensive management consulting experience at McKinsey & Co., an international management consulting firm. He also had operating experience as Senior Vice President of Operations at Zimmerman Holdings, a private diversified manufacturing company.

Don's contributions in the field of product development are recognized internationally. In 1983, while a consultant at McKinsey & Co., he wrote the landmark article in *Electronic Business* magazine that first quantified the value of development speed. This article is believed by some observers to have triggered the movement to shorten development cycles in American industry. It is frequently cited as the McKinsey study that reported "six months delay can be worth 33 percent of life-cycle profits". Don is well known for developing methods to quantify and manage difficult trade-offs between cost, schedule, and technical performance.

Don is also responsible for coining the term "Fuzzy Front End" to describe the critical early stage of product development and for the first practical application of queueing theory to development process design in 1991. He is known for developing innovative, but practical, analytical techniques for assessing the product development process. For 25 years he has focused on creating fundamental changes in the way organizations develop products. His 1997 book, *Managing the Design Factory: A Product Developer's Toolkit*, was the first book to describe how the principles of Just-in-Time manufacturing could be applied to product development. In the past 12 years this approach has become known as Lean Product Development.

Don is also coauthor of the book, *Developing Products in Half the Time*. He speaks internationally on Lean Product Development. For the last 15 years he has taught executive courses at California Institute of Technology. He also teaches a



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popular course with the Management Roundtable, called *Achieving Lean Product Development*.

Don holds a B.S. from Cornell University in Electrical Engineering. He holds an M.B.A. with distinction from Harvard Business School. He served on active duty for 6 years on nuclear submarines, and continued his service in the Navy Reserve until his retirement in 1993 at the rank of Captain.